

19 December 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Taylor

SUBJECT : COSATI Minutes of Meeting, 11 October 1972

1. Attached is a copy of the Minutes of the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI) which was held on 11 October 1972. [ ] suggested that they be brought to your attention.

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2. COSATI activities, since they could have a broad effect across Federal Government information handling, occasionally do affect the intelligence community. CIRCOL, the viable and effective data network from Wright-Patterson, uses COSATI subject terms as one of the ways of storing and searching their data files. Also, the list of attendees at their meeting includes some people who can strongly affect our activities--for example, T. J. Parker, III of OMB, who has responsibility for the whole Federal Standards Program, Dr. William Knox, of PFIAB's "Knox Panel," and Col. Andy Aines. [ ] the Secretary, was for many years a CIA employee (FDD), and his predecessor, [ ] used to be on this staff, of course.

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3. COSATI is trying to reorganize their activities, establish a new charter, and become more effective. Previous recommendations for a new way to go by a Review Group headed [ ] were approved by the National Science Foundation (which has chairmanship responsibilities for COSATI) but non-concurred by Dr. David, head of OST, who told them to streamline their organization. They then convened a Program Group to once again address this reorganization problem. Attached is a 22 November memorandum from the chairman of their Program Group with suggestions for future COSATI activities. It recommends fewer formal activities, more executive sessions, aid to agencies on international information handling questions, and a program with these priorities: Federal Information Resource Sharing; User Involvement (which includes both user participation in system design and user feedback in evaluation), changes in dissemination modes, and software compatibility for interactive systems.

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4. We will continue to monitor their activity via [ ] staff.

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